

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 06102 171151Z

20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 /086 W
----- 068683

P 171115Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7228

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 6102

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP MR AG

SUBJECT: GOM ALLEGES ALGERIAN CRAFT INVOLVED IN SAHARA ACTION

1. LEAD STORY IN DEC 17 LE MATIN AND OTHER PAPERS WAS OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP ITEM PROMINENTLY HEADLINED "BLOODY CLASHES BETWEEN ALGERIAN BOATS AND MAURITANIAN ARMY." STORY ALLEGED THAT, ON DEC 15, UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF BOATS FLYING ALGERIAN FLAG LANDED MILITARY MEN AND MATERIEL IN SAHARAN PORT OF EL GUERA, NEAR MAURITANIAN BORDER. STORY WENT ON TO CLAIM THAT "SERIOUS CLASHES" FOLLOWED BETWEEN DEBARKING ELEMENTS AND MAURITANIAN REGULAR FORCES.

2. COMMENT: WE PUZZLED BY CLAIM THAT ALGERIAN BOATS IN AREA. WE UNAWARE OF ANY REPORTS OF UNITS OF SMALL ALGERIAN NAVY HAVING TRAVERSED STRAITS RECENTLY. WE CONSIDER IT LIKELIER THAT ANY SUCH BOATS ARE COASTAL CRAFT OF MORE LOCAL ORIGIN WHICH ATTEMPTING LAND REINFORCEMENTS FOR BESEIGED
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PAGE 02 RABAT 06102 171151Z

F POLISARIO UNITS IN EL GUERA. STORY IN ANY CASE STOPS

SHORT OF ALLEGING THAT ALGERIANS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN FIGHTING,
ALTHOUGH WITH RADIO ALGIERS DEC 15 CLAIM THAT F POLISARIO HAS
INITIATED INCIDENTS INSIDE MOROCCO AND THIS LATEST GOM CLAIM,
AN ESCALATION OF CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES SEEMS UNDERWAY
BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA.
NEUMANN

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NNN

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